

Strawberries and Cream Wanted by Tank Builders; They Struck and Employers Yielded to Them

Special to The World.

SHAMROCK, Okla., Dec. 11.—The greatest era of steel tank building for the storage of crude oil was at its height just a year ago and extended over an active period of six to eight months. The scene of the greatest activity was the old Cushing field, within the confines of which a total of 700 55,000-barrel tanks was constructed, while perhaps half a million more were built beyond the confines of the field to store the oil from this field. Cushing oil was put in tanks during that period all the way from Oklahoma to the Atlantic seaboard, and from Oklahoma to the Gulf coast.

To build the 700 steel tanks within this field, an army of men were required, and wherever possible experienced men were secured. They made good wages and workmen flocked to the field from all parts of the United States. Thousands of them were union boiler-makers, men who had worked in the most important plants in the union—Chicago, Pittsburgh and other big manufacturing plants.

At the time, however, they were men of far less experience, many of whom were farmhands and workmen of all classes and trades who knew but little, and in many instances absolutely nothing, of tank-making or tank-building, and they were taught their first lessons in this field.

It was the low price of crude oil, the sudden drop of Cushing crude from \$1.45 a barrel to a quoted price of 10 cents, that caused the great campaign of tankbuilding. Previously, in fact, the price paid for crude during the period of low market was everywhere from 25 cents to 30 cents a barrel, and much of the oil put in tankage was purchased from the producing companies at these extremely low figures.

Only the immediate oil corporations and individuals could afford to build, and as a result the lower prices during the period were forced to dispose of their oil to those who could afford to build.

Tankers Go on Strike.

It is estimated that there were fully 70,000 men working as tankbuilders in the Cushing field, and some of these men as late as 15,000 about a year ago when a strike was ordered. As stated above, there were many union boiler-makers among the "tankers," men who carried cards, and it was not long before tank building reached the status in this community of a walking delegation appeared and began to organize all the workers. The movement met with great success and within a short time practically every "tanker" in the Cushing field belonged to the union.

Tank-building contractors employ-

ed the men, and as a rule, the "tankers" were signed up for a certain length of time. The contractors agreed to build a number of tanks within a required length of time, and some of these contracts were for tanks numbering as high as 50 to 70. To fill these contracts it was necessary, therefore, to keep a sufficient force of men on hand all the time, and it was these conditions that put the workers in a position where they could dictate terms and handle the situation almost as they pleased.

The tankbuilders after the union was formed, had their grievance committee, one on each tank farm, and whenever the men made up their minds that they wanted certain privileges they made the demands of their employers through these committees. Frequently these demands were for higher wages or less work, but the men were determined that they wanted them that was sufficient, and the committees would know the wishes of the men to the superintendent in charge of the work.

Ask Strawberries and Cream.

On one occasion the "tankers" employed in the P. I. W. (Pittsburgh Iron Works) camp north of Shamrock, Okla., on a strike for strawberries and cream, and the demands were complied with, notwithstanding the fact that strawberries were then worth from \$2.50 to \$4 a crate and cream from 12 to 15 cents for one gal., while the cream was supplied from condensed milk cans. It was necessary to ship the strawberries from Texas points to other points of view, and then from there to the tank farm, which was a considerable task, and the men made a day whether the lot was completed or not.

What the Demands Were.

When the big strike was ordered about a year ago and practically every tanker in the field went out, it was on a demand to cut down the amount of work that constituted a day. The men asked that 80 feet, instead of 100, make a days work on the angle iron, and 400 feet, instead of 500, on the steel. There were some minor demands, but the amount of the day was the principal one. The contractors refused to meet the demands of the men and the strike was then on in earnest. Some provision had been made about the time to raise for the strikers and their families, but it was insufficient and frequently the men who had been earning from \$4.50 to \$7.50 a day went hungry. Then strike breakers were employed and to a certain extent raising hell, but it was not long in being apparent that the contractors between the employers and the men expired and both sides refused to yield. The companies refused to recognize the demands.

The main portion of the strike was in progress during the cold winter months and there was much suffering. Gradually, after 60 or 90 days, the men began returning to work, and finally an agreement was reached whereby the majority of them were taken back, but it was an "open shop" system, henceforward. Some of the contractors preferred the union men because of their experience and their ability to accomplish the work in a shorter time, but these contractors also went on the "open shop" plan and employed men, if they were needed, whether they were union or not. Some of the tank farms practically all the workmen were new men entirely.

Break Up the Union.

The result of the strike in the long run was to completely break up the tankbuilders' union, so far as work in the Oklahoma oil fields was concerned. Whether or not the workmen were in the right in going on strike, the ultimate result was not what they desired. The amount of a day's work remained the same, it is understood, as did also the amount of a day's wages, but the union was broken up. This is still true at the present time in this state. It is understood, for workmen now employed in building the extensive tank farms in the Cushing field declare that there is no union among them.

The amount of money paid out for labor in building the big tank farms in this field reached a mammoth sum. One contracting firm with a contract to build 18,000 steel tanks northwest of Shamrock had a payroll every two weeks amounting to \$20,000. At the same rate to build the 700 tanks of that size in this field would have required a semi-monthly payroll of \$1,000,000.

The cost of a 55,000-barrel steel tank in this field was close to \$11,000, of which \$3,000 was for labor and material. It is estimated that the total amount paid out for labor in the construction of the 700 tanks was fully \$2,000,000, while the total cost of the tanks was nearly \$10,000,000.

That the building of the tanks paid an enormous profit is now demonstrated by all who work in the field. If the oil placed in storage during the low market price brought the quoted price of 10 cents a barrel, the men who stored it would make 10 cents a barrel by this time. It is estimated that the 700 tanks in this field, if stored in this field, and a profit of 10 cents a barrel would mean \$27,000,000.

It is a fact, however, that much of the stored oil was bought from producers at from 25 to 30 cents a barrel, and at the present time if a tank of oil charges hands it is at \$1.25 to \$1.40 a barrel, including the tanks. Instead of 10 cents, the quoted market price of oil is now 25 cents. It is estimated to be about 25 cents a barrel. Oil now selling at \$1.40 is really \$1.15 for the oil itself, or a profit or increase of 50 cents a barrel on crude that was stored at 25 cents.

With the 700 tanks costing approximately \$10,000,000, and the increase in the value of the stored oil amounting to \$27,000,000, the net profit to the men who stored it would total \$17,000,000. This estimate of the increase or profit is extremely low, as much of the oil was stored, as already shown, at about 30 cents a barrel in-



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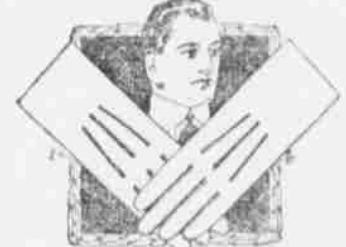
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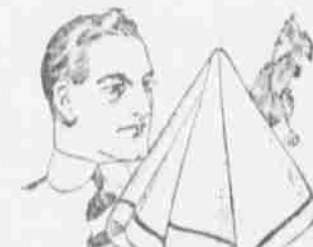
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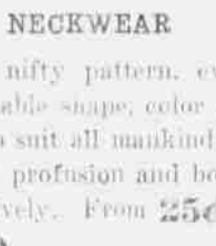
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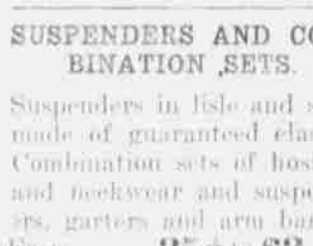
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Dandruff Heads Become Hairless

If you want plenty of thick, beautiful, glossy, silky hair, do by means of getting rid of dandruff. If you do not get rid of dandruff it will grow your hair and ruin it if you do not.

It doesn't do much good to try to brush or wash it out. The only sure way to get rid of dandruff is to dissolve it, then you destroy it entirely. To do this get about four ounces of ordinary liquid arsenic; apply it at night when retiring, use enough to moisten the scalp and rub it in gently with the finger tips.

By morning, most if not all, of your dandruff will be gone, and three or four applications will completely dissolve and entirely destroy every single grain and trace of it.

You will find, too, that all itching and itching of the scalp will stop, and your hair will look and feel a hundred times better. You can get liquid arsenic at any drug store. It is inexpensive and for the sake of all you will need, no matter how much dandruff you have. This simple remedy never fails.—Adv.

Applying this Paste Actually Removes Hair

(Beauty Notes.)

Merely applying an inexpensive paste to a hairy surface, say beauty specialists, will dissolve it. This paste is made by mixing a little water with some powdered borax, after about two minutes it is rubbed off and the skin washed. This simple method not only removes every trace of hair, but leaves the skin free from blemish. To insure success with this treatment, be careful to get all the paste off, at about 30 cents a barrel in-

stead of 40, and it is now worth right at \$1.15 a barrel, instead of \$1.

While the amount paid out in labor in constructing the tanks is estimated at \$2,000,000.

OFFICER'S BRIDE SAVES MEN.

Woman Compelled Unwilling Soldiers to Retire.

The principal figures in the following real-life story of the European war are a young Russian soldier and the daughter of a princely landowner in the Caucasus. Several months ago the soldier, then a college undergraduate, was riding on a train in Warsaw, where he was to join his regiment. The girl, going to the same city to visit friends, was also a passenger on the train, and, sitting in the same car, they met. The girl, who was a beauty, was so attracted to the soldier that she decided to marry him. She managed to pick up a soldier's kit before they reached their destination and assumed the name of Laurence. She appealed so eloquently to the commanding officer that he allowed her to remain near her husband in the trenches, pretending not to have discovered that she was a woman, a fact made patent by her comeliness, the deep lashes of her eyes, her slight build and the delicate coloring of her skin.

The position at which she and her

husband were stationed was a most critical one and on it a heavy German fire was concentrated from the time of their arrival. At the end of a specially murderous attack the officers of her husband's and neighboring companies were either killed or incapacitated and the young husband, though only a lieutenant, found himself chief in command of four companies with his wife as his lieutenant.

As the engagement continued the German guns, apparently having found the exact range, began pouring a merciless hail of shells among the Russians, moving them down rapidly. The young husband, realizing that if the men in the front line remained there longer they would all be killed in a few minutes, sent one of his men with an order for them to retire. In a few minutes the order was returned and reported that the men had refused to draw back, declaring that they were either killed or incapacitated and the young husband, though only a lieutenant, found himself chief in command of four companies with his wife as his lieutenant.

She delivered the order, but the men stubbornly refused to obey. As she stood paralyzed the shells of the Germans who had succeeded in crawling a little nearer began exploding with deadly precision right in the trenches among the soldiers. Seeing that desperate measures would have to be adopted if the entire front line was not to be cut to pieces in a short time, she angrily raised her rifle and brought it down with all the power at her command on the shoulder of the

first one and then another of the men.

This seemed to give force and authority to her voice. Now raised in anger, retreating her "superior" command. One after another, the men arose from their positions in the trench and ran to the back line, leaving only a few stragglers until the last one had gone. Just before she left a splinter of shrapnel struck and killed her arm.

Referring to her husband's position, she found him with a wound in the leg. Husband and wife were removed to the same hospital and the brave young woman was presented to the commanding officer, who saw to it that she was decorated with the cross of St. George—Pittsburgh.

TOO MUCH PROTECTION?

Suggestion That Too Much Has Been Done for Old Wild Life.

An observant writer expresses a fear that before long time will not dare to kill anything but flies in this country. Wild life is being protected to such an extent that people walking in the woods have to be protected where they stand for fear of crushing some unseen creature and getting in trouble with the game warden and read in the papers a few days ago that a boy wanting to kill frogs must take out a hunting license. And that's not all.

One would think that if a man was walking through a field and saw a big rattlesnake he'd have a right to kill it, would he not? Well, some places he has not and some places he has. Lewis Anthony, a farmer near Waycross, Ga., has been legal action against John Hammond, a neighbor, because John killed a rattlesnake on Anthony's farm. It seems that Anthony catches all the snakes on his place and sells them. He fig-

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